National Renewal Fund

1107. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Renewal Fund set up in 1991 for the rehabilitation of the redundant labourers has achieved the desired objectives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken to make it viable?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The objective behind setting up the National Renewal Fund (NRF) by the Government in February, 1992 was to provide a social safety net for workers effected by technology upgradation, modernisation and industrial restructuring of Indian Industry. Assistance from NRF has so far been provided for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the Central Public Sector Undertakings, and for counselling, Retraining and Redeployment assistance to rationalised workers.

Air Station, Asansol

1108. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 210 on July 11, 1996 regarding AIR Station, Asansol and state :

(a) whether the proposed AIR station is behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress made so far on setting up of the said station; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delay has been primarily due to late handing over of site by the State Government and subsequently due to delay in availability of permanent power supply from the West Bengal State Electricity Board.

(c) and (d) The Station is technically ready and can be commissioned by December, 1996 subject to availability of requisite staff for operation and maintenance and availability of permanent power supply.

[Translation]

Foreign Tourists

1109. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the names of the countries from where a large number of foreign tourists come to visit Rajasthan and the places they visit in Rajasthan particularly?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): According to the information provided by the State Government, the countries from where a large number of tourists come to visit Rajasthan are France, Japan, Germany, Australia, U.K. and U.S.A. The most popular places of visit of these tourists in Rajasthan are Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Shekhawati region.

[English]

Increasing Air Traffic

1110. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Commercial Pilots Association pointed out that navigation and communication system in India was not as per international standard and was not matching the increasing air traffic;

(b) number of such letters received by the then Minister during 1-1-95 and 31-12-95 from the Association;

(c) the detailed suggestions given by the Association;

(d) the action taken by the Government to implement those suggestions till date; and

(e) the suggestions implemented/not implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The Indian Commercial pilots Association has sent one letter dated 1.5.95 suggesting various improvements to navigation/communication equipment at various Indian Airports like installation of transponders, VHF communication system, implementation of the award given by the DGCA etc.

(d) While interrogators (SSRs) have been commissioned at Trivandrum and Hyderabad airports, the work is in progress for the same at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Guwahati and Ahmedabad Airports. SSRs will be installed at Vishakhapatnam and Nagpur airports in the 9th Plan and for Bangalore Airport the requirement has been communicated to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Extended range VHF has been provided at Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Trivandrum airports. Cat II ILS has been installed at Delhi Airport. The award of former DGCA has been taken up for implementation in toto.

(e) Installation of extended range VHF at Bhopal has not been accepted due to technical reasons. All other suggestions are being implemented.